

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
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Approved for Release: 2021/04/08 C05093212

GAMBIT-ZAMAN

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

BYE NO. 12000/71

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PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

June 17, 1971

Dear Dave:

In the course of its regular June meeting, the PFIAB met with the President on 4 June. One item raised with the President falls within the purview of EXCOM, and I think it may be useful for me to fill you in.

Dr. Land is concerned that a decision to purchase a film readout GAMBIT (FROG) to meet the crisis coverage requirement may, because of a budget squeeze, seriously delay or even defer development of ZAMAN.

In presenting this matter to the President, Dr. Land pointed out that quantum advances in the development of our overhead reconnaissance capabilities have only been possible with strong Presidential backing because the financial risks were more than the bureaucracy could or should assume. Dr. Land characterized FROG as a cautious step, and ZAMAN as a quantum jump which would give the U. S. an unquestioned technological lead in this field.

Dr. Land was supported by Dr. Baker, who stated that neither he nor Dr. Land were as much concerned about immediate planning as they were over the potential loss of the long-term commitment to ZAMAN.

Quite clearly neither I nor, for that matter, most members of the Board, are technically qualified to debate the advantages of one system versus the other. But, in view of budgetary cutbacks, the reservations raised by Dr. Land with respect to our ability to have both appear deserving of careful study.

Sincerely,


George W. Anderson, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)
Chairman

Honorable David Packard
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon - Room 3E928
Washington, D. C.

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Copy to:

Hon. Richard Helms
Hon. Edward E. David, Jr.
Hon. Robert F. Froehlke
Hon. John L. McLucas ←

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